**Scenario 1**

Sara, an eighteen-year old college student, is arrested for stealing a classmate’s term paper and selling it on the Internet. When she appears before the judge, she asks for a lawyer to help defend her. The judge tells her that if she is smart enough to be in college, she is smart enough to defend herself. Besides, she is note being charged with a felony, so the stakes are not very high.

**Violation of the 6th Amendment**: Guarantee of the Right to Counsel

**Scenario 2**

A neighbor is suing the Smiths because a tree in the Smiths’ yard fell on their roof during a hurricane. The neighbors want the Jones family to pay $850 to have their roof repaired. Mr. Smith requests that a jury be present to hear this case. The judge says it is not necessary since the amount of the repairs is so small. The Smith family lives in Washington D.C.

**Violation of the 7th Amendment:** Guarantee of right to a jury trial in civil cases in federal court (and the District of Columbia is under the jurisdiction of a federal court.)

**Scenario 3**

Carolyn is arrested for shoplifting a candy bar from a neighborhood convenience store. At trial, she is found guilty. The judge decides that the appropriate punishment is to cut off Carolyn’s hands so that she will not be able to shoplift again.

**Violation of the 8th Amendment**: Guarantee of freedom from cruel and unusual punishment

**Scenario 4**

Mr. Ibrahim, an avid hunter, opens the door of his home one day to find agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms outside. They inform him that certain provisions of a new federal law allow them to confiscate his rifles so that he may not engage in terrorist activities or plot against the United States government.

**Violation of the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Amendments:** Guarantee of the right to keep and bear arms, illegal search and seizure, and a violation of the guarantee of due process

**Scenario 5**

Your science teacher asks the class to exchange papers to correct last night’s homework. Your friend Jamie refuses to do so and is sent to the office for insubordination.

**No violation:** In *Owasso Independent School District v. Falvo (2001)*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that peer grading of student papers is not a violation of personal liberty or of privacy.

**Scenario 6**

Jesse, a fifteen-year old high school student, decides to protest the war in Iraq. He wears a t-shirt to school with a picture of the White House and the caption “Weapon of Massive Misinformation.” His principal pulls Jesse aside and asks him not to wear the shirt again because it is disruptive to the learning environment. Jesse wears it again the next week and is suspended from school for three days.

**???????? (but it’s a 1st Amendment issue):** In *Tinker v. Des Moines (1969)*, the Supreme Court ruled that students have the right to wear politically expressive clothing to school. However, in recent years, lower courts have issued a variety of opinions, some of which upheld student dress codes while other courts have greatly limited the power of the schools to regulate students’ expressive speech (e.g. clothing.)

**Scenario 7**

Sixteen-year old Alexa is the captain of her high school basketball team. Before an upcoming game, she and her teammates are required to submit to a drug test. Alexa’s test shows traces of marijuana. She is not allowed to participate in the game and is suspended from her team for two weeks.

**No Violation (but it’s a 4th Amendment search and seizure issue):** In *Board of Education of Pottawatomie County v. Earls (2002)*, the Supreme Court ruled that drug tests for all students participating in any extra-curricular activities are a reasonable way to prevent and deter drug use.

**Scenario 8**

A known drug dealer is arrested for suspected connection to a recent homicide. Upon his arrest, when he first arrives at the station, the police immediately begin to interrogate him. They continue until he admits he knows the victim of the crime and was in the neighborhood where the murder took place.

**Violation of the 5th and 6th Amendments:** Guarantee of the right to freedom from self-incrimination and right to counsel (*Miranda v. Arizona (1966)).*

**Scenario 9**

Your parents are very religious people, but you are not. Today, your parents are going to a service at their place of worship and they expect you to come along. You refuse. They make you come anyway under the threat of being grounded for a month.

**No Violation** (**but it’s a potential 1st Amendment issue):** The Bill of Rights protects individual liberties such as freedom of religion from encroachment from the federal or state governments, but it does note limit the actions of individuals (e.g. parents).

**Scenario 10**

Because of the budget deficit, the United States government is looking for ways to cut costs. They have announced a plan during peacetime to house unmarried soldiers in the homes of American citizens who do not have children.

**Violation of the 3rd Amendment:** Guarantee of the right not quarter (house) soldiers in peacetime in private homes.

**Scenario 11**

Because members of Congress are unhappy with students’ standardized test scores in many states, they pass a federal law that abolishes local school boards and requires a standardized national curriculum.

**Violation of the 10th Amendment**: Reservation of power to the people of the states. Under principles of federalism, if the Constitution does not expressly grant the power to the federal government (as in this case, for regulating education), it is power reserved to the states and the people.

**Scenario 12**

You are in the security line at the airport. The transportation safety agent requires you to take off your coat, take off your shoes, and empty your pockets. The agent also completes a pat-down search of your body.

**No Violation:** The 4th Amendment protects against unreasonable search and seizure, but airport security procedures have been considered reasonable deterrents to airplane hijackings.

**Scenario 13**

A student in a high school journalism class writes an article for the school newspaper about teen pregnancy, including discussion of several unnamed students who are pregnant at the school. The school principal refuses to let the article appear in the paper, saying that the issues are too sensitive and personal to be published.

**No Violation (but it’s a 1st Amendment** **issue):** Protection of the freedom of the press does not apply to school publications, since they are more like school activities than “free press” (*Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier*, 1988). In that decision, the Supreme Court did caution schools to balance maintaining high standards of speech with students’ right to free expression.

**Scenario 14**

A New England chapter of the Ku Klux Klan holds a rally in Maine. At the rally, a KKK leader proposes a march on Washington D.C. and claims the group should consider using violence to “take revenge” on Blacks and Jews for their “ruination of the United States” if political leaders do not acknowledge the KKK’s demands. Maine state police arrested the KKK leader for threatening speech.

**Violation of the 1st Amendment’s freedom of speech**, since the leader’s speech cannot be seen as to incite “imminent lawless action” (*Brandenburg v. Ohio,* 1969).